

More action from our old friends James Bond and Superman. They're not calling *The Living Daylights* James Bond XV, but that's what it is. It takes its title and little else from an Ian Fleming short story. The villains are the familiar cast of Russians and private-sector megalomaniacs led by Joe Don Baker. The new face in the old formula is Timothy Dalton, playing a Bond who can actually move two steps without calling for



Timothy Dalton is the new Bond, James Bond, in *The Living Daylights*. Maryam D'Abo plays a "lethal Czech cellist."

the stunt double.

Meanwhile, Clark Kent still works at *The Daily Planet*, Superman is still saving the world and Christopher Reeve is still suspended at the end of an almost-invisible wire. In *Superman II*, the Man of Steel defeats Nuclear Man, the latest fiendish creation of wily Lex Luthor (Gene Hackman again). With his other hand, Supe stops the arms race, thereby relieving Gorbachev and Reagan of that little duty. Mariel Hemingway provides pert competition for Lois Lane (Margot Kidder again).

If you were wondering where Drago went after Rocky knocked him into Commie heaven, he's returning as He-Man. Yes, now there is a movie of *Masters of the Universe*, and Dolph Lundgren again displays pectorals like pie plates.

Buddy-buddy movies will always be in vogue. In *Innerspace* Dennis Quaid and Martin Short team up in a unique way: Quaid is injected into Short! Echoing that campy Raquel Welch movie *Fantastic Voyage* many moons past, Quaid is miniaturized for some secret government project. Echoing *Oh, God!*, Short is a meek supermarket clerk who finds a strange new friend who is always with him.

In *Stakeout*, the buddies are Richard Dreyfuss and Emilio Estevez. They're cops

staking out escaped con Aidan Quinn, but before they catch him Dreyfuss falls for the con's moll. Something always messes up these beautiful movie friendships.

*Prick Up Your Ears* is a two-guy movie from England about the life and death of playwright Joe Orton and his roommate. Gary Oldman from *Sid & Nancy* plays the tragic Orton, a homosexual who died in his prime, bludgeoned by his lover.

Early death also claimed '50s teen rock star Ritchie Valens, whose big hits were the mawkish "Donna" and the Latin-tempo'd "La Bamba." Valens crashed in the same plane that took down Buddy Holly and the Big Bopper. The story of Valens' brief life (he was 17 when he died) is told in *La Bamba*, starring unknown Lou Diamond Philips.

And now the war you've all been waiting to be re-fought, Vietnam. Fed up with *Rambo* fantasies, the nation embraced the tragic *Platoon*, and Hollywood now stands ready to supply our new taste for realistic depictions of the war.

*Full Metal Jacket* was already well into shooting last year when Oliver Stone started *Platoon*. But director Stanley Kubrick is a perfectionist if nothing else, and he's been fine-tuning *Full Metal Jacket* interminably. Thus, his men-at-war saga missed its chance to be the first unvarnished Vietnam movie.

Though he shot the movie in foggy England, far from steamy Asia, Kubrick is known as a stickler for realism. So expect his re-creation of the Tet offensive in 1968 to ricochet off the screen. Like *Platoon*, *Full Metal Jacket* is an ensemble movie centering on a single small unit in combat, as seen through the eyes of a blinking, unprepared shavetail. Matthew Modine plays the Charlie Sheen role. Adam Baldwin and Dorian Harewood also star.

In *Beverly Hills Cop II*, Eddie Murphy returns as Axel Foley, bane—and occasional savior—of the Bev Hills police force.

*Gardens of Stone* is director Francis Coppola's second stab at the definitive Vietnam movie. *Apocalypse Now* seemed to glorify war at the same time it said war is hell. A similar ambiguity may appear this time, as Coppola follows the stateside friendship of a war-wise sergeant (James Caan) and a bound-for-glory recruit (Sam Bottoms).

The title refers to Arlington National Cemetery, where Caan and Bottoms are stationed in the honor guard. In wartime Washington, many opposed our involvement, and wouldn't you know that Caan falls in love with a peacenik *Washington Post* reporter, Anjelica Huston.

*Hanoi Hilton* bids to be the most realistic of the season's war movies. It's based on the true stories of the American fliers shot down and held prisoner by the North Vietnamese for up to eight years. Torture and squalor were the lot of these heroes, played in the film by Michael Moriarty, David Soul, Jeffrey Jones and others. On them, striped pajamas and rubber-tire sandals look good.

Romance is the perfect relief from realism. Molly Ringwald plays the first girl that *The Pick-Up Artist* Robert Downey can't bring himself to dump before she dumps him. In *The Princess Bride*, Robin Wright is adrift in medieval times with only Cary Elwes and Mandy Patinkin to save her.

In *She's Having a Baby*, John Hughes finally writes about the consequences of all the teen romance he's been putting on the screen during the last few years. Elizabeth McGovern didn't just say no to Kevin Bacon, so they have to get married and face a fate worse than death: becoming parents.

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